

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A[[The]] transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid encoding a microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase, wherein said nucleic acid is stably integrated into a nuclear or plastid genome of the plant and is under control of a chemically-inducible promoter, and according to claim 8 wherein said chemically-inducible promoter is one of a PR-1, PR-1a, PR-2, PR-3, PR-4, and PR-5 promoter.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant according to claim 30, wherein said bacterium is a *Thermomonospora* bacteria.

15. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant according to claim 14, wherein said bacterium is *T. fusca*.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A[[The]] transgenic plant comprising a nucleic acid encoding a microbial  $\beta$ -1,4-endoglucanase and vacuole targeting sequence, wherein said nucleic acid is stably integrated into a nuclear or plastid genome of the plant and is under control of a promoter active in plants of claim 19 wherein said targeting sequence comprises a vacuole targeting sequence.

21. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim [[6]]9, wherein the endoglucanase is thermostable.

22. (Currently amended) A transgenic seed obtained from the plant of claim 9[[6]].

23. (Currently amended) A transgenic seed obtained from the plant of claim [[7]]9, wherein said seed comprises said nucleic acid.

24-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim 9[[13]], wherein said microbial source microorganism is a bacterium or a fungus.